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HB 109 – Support
Public Safety – Maryland Swimming Pool and Spa Standards – Adoption
Environment and Transportation Committee

January 26, 2021

Dear Chair Barve, and Members of the Committee,

The International Code Council (Code Council) supports the passage HB 153, adopting the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) for new construction, alteration, and remodeling of public, semi-public, and private pools and spas¹.

The Code Council is a member-focused nonprofit association with over 64,000 members (1,200 of whom call Maryland home) that develops model building codes, the I-Codes, used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. Maryland chooses the International Codes (I-Codes) as its regulatory foundation for the built environment adopting and adapting the International Residential Code, the International Building Code, the International Plumbing Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Fuel Gas Code, the International Green Construction Code, the International Property Maintenance Code, the International Existing Building Code, and the International Energy Conservation Code, all of which are updated every three years using a nationally recognized consensus-based process. The I-Codes, including the *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code* (ISPSC), are the most widely used and adopted set of building codes in the U.S. and around the world.

Several Maryland jurisdictions currently adopt and enforce the ISPSC² or use provisions from the code. Others require permits and inspections for pools and spas but reference out of date legacy regulations. This approach causes a patchwork of jurisdiction specific requirements across Maryland that do not take advantage of safer and more energy efficient construction practices that up-to-date codes and standards provide (e.g. solar thermal water heating). Passing HB109 reduces industry confusion and promotes compliance through a consistent set of pool and spa regulations that are seamlessly designed to integrate with the building, plumbing, mechanical, residential and other construction codes used throughout Maryland. Additional advantages to adopting the ISPSC are listed on the attached document. The Code Council appreciates the Committee's consideration and urges a favorable vote.

Thank you for your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Wiley", is written over a horizontal line.

Justin Wiley – Vice President, Government Relations

¹ The scope of the ISPSC does not address operations and maintenance of swimming pools and spas.

² Anne Arundel, Cecil, Montgomery, and Wicomico counties, as well as Annapolis, Baltimore, and Gaithersburg Cities adopt the ISPSC directly or by reference.